



## ELECTION TERMINOLOGY

### How do I know the difference between Vote Centers and Satellite Absentee Vote Offices?

#### VOTE CENTERS

***What are "Vote Centers"?***

Vote Centers replace traditional Election Day polling places. Once a county adopts the Vote Centers model, any voter can visit a Vote Center located anywhere in their county and receive the correct ballot for their precinct on Election Day.

***Who decides to open a Vote Center?***

The County Election Board must decide unanimously to apply to become a Vote Center county. Indiana law requires that the application must specify the exact location of each Vote Center within the county. Currently, Indiana law only permits 3 vote centers counties: Cass, Tippecanoe, and Wayne.

***When are Vote Centers open?***

Vote Centers are only open on Election Day.

***How do Hoosiers use Vote Centers?***

A Hoosier will go to a Vote Center in his or her county to cast a regular official ballot on Election Day.

***How do Vote Centers work?***

Each Vote Center is electronically linked to the county election board. This precaution prevents double voting. There are no traditional precinct poll lists for voters to sign. Instead, each voter signs a pre-printed card retained by Vote Center poll workers.

Vote Centers are staffed by Election Day poll workers nominated by county party chairs and appointed by county election boards. Vote Center poll workers may have different titles and jobs than poll workers in traditional polling places.

#### SATELLITE ABSENTEE VOTE OFFICES

***What are "Satellite Absentee Vote Offices"?***

Satellite Absentee Vote Offices are temporary offices of the county clerk designated for absentee voting. These offices can be open from 29 days before Election Day until noon on the day before Election Day.

***Who decides to open a Satellite Absentee Vote Office?***

The County Election Board will decide if a Satellite Absentee Vote Office is appropriate for the county. Indiana law requires that the County Election Board must make a unanimous decision to open any Satellite Absentee Vote Offices.

***When are Satellite Absentee Vote Offices open?***

Satellite Absentee Vote Offices can be open 29 days before Election Day. These temporary offices will close at noon the day before Election Day.

***How do Hoosiers use Satellite Absentee Vote Offices?***

A Hoosier who wants to cast an absentee ballot can do so in person at a Satellite Absentee Vote Office. Upon arrival, the voter completes an absentee ballot application. Then the absentee board determines if the applicant is registered to vote. If so, and the application is approved, the voter may cast an absentee ballot that is set aside to be counted on Election Day.

***How do Satellite Absentee Vote Offices work?***

Satellite Absentee Vote Offices are open on the days and hours agreed on by the county election board (which could be alternate Thursdays or Saturdays, from 10-3, for example). At the close of each day, the sealed absentee ballots are taken to the county clerk's office by the bipartisan absentee board members. The absentee board also transmits the absentee applications and other election documents to the county to be secured.

***Bottom line: Satellite Absentee Vote Offices are not the same as Vote Centers.***